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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/771,894	01/30/2001	Wataru Sakurai	50212-180	2683

7590 08/27/2003

McDermott, Will & Emery
600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096

EXAMINER

DAVIS, ROBERT B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1722

DATE MAILED: 08/27/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/771,894

Applicant(s)

SAKURAI ET AL.

Examiner

Robert B. Davis

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 15-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 25 and 26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 15-24 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 January 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/509,953.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>3</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, claims 15-24 in Paper No. 5, is acknowledged.
2. Claims 25 and 26 have been withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in Paper No. 5.

Claim Suggestions

3. Line 17 of claim 15, "th e" should be "the". The examiner has considered "th e" as "the".

Line 19 of claim 17, "soas" should be "so as". The examiner has considered "soas" as "so as".

Specification

4. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
Line 4 of page 35, "vent 101d" should be "vent 101a".
Line 5 of page 35, "vent 101" should be "vent 101a".
Appropriate correction is required.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 15-24 are allowed over the prior art of record.
6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests a mold for providing an optical connector ferrule comprising:

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a mating surface made of resin; an optical fiber accommodating hole having an inner surface and one end portion, said inner surface extending along a predetermined axis and being made of the resin, and one end portion reaching said mating surface;

a first guide projection having proximal and distal end portions, said first guide projection continuously extending from said mating surface along the predetermined axis, and said first guide projection being made of the resin; and a guide engaging portion continuously extending from said mating surface along the predetermined axis, said guide engaging portion made of the resin, the mold comprising: first, second, third, and fourth mold units for defining a cavity for providing said ferrule; said first and second mold units, combined with each other to define the cavity, providing opening portions toward the predetermined axis so as to provide a housing portion for housing said third and fourth mold units, said third and fourth mold units being housed in the housing portion so as to be movable along the predetermined axis with respect to said combined first and second mold units; and said third mold unit including a guide projection forming portion, at least one pin, and an engaging portion forming portion, said guide projection forming portion having an inner surface and a bottom surface and extending along the predetermined axis, said at least one pin extending along the predetermined axis, and said engaging portion forming portion being provided to form said engaging portion and extending along the predetermined axis. The closest prior art (Sakai et al 5,815,621) discloses a four-part mold for forming a resin ferrule, but the reference discloses cores (430a and 430b) for forming guide openings and does not disclose or suggest a guide projection forming portion.

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Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The remaining references show various molds for forming resin ferrules.

8. This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:

The minor informalities to the specification as listed.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert B. Davis whose telephone number is 703-308-2625. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wanda L. Walker can be reached on 703-308-0457. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.



Robert B. Davis
Primary Examiner
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8/25/02